

## Kaua`i WIB Report to the WDC

Date:	April 10, 2012
Island:	Kaua`i County
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### 1) SUMMARY

#### **CURRENT STATE OF KAUA`I'S WORKFORCE**

Kaua`i's unemployment rate, dropped to **7.8%** in December, rose to 8.3% in January and is estimated to have dropped again in February to **7.9%**. While the civilian labor force declined by 450 between January 2011 and January 2012, there was job growth of 600 in Service-Providing including: Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities; Information; Financial Activities; Leisure & Hospitality + 400; and the Federal Government.

As construction of the County's 50-unit Phase II affordable housing complex in Kōloa begins to wind down, Hawai'i Pacific Solar from Maui will be hiring up to 13 workers (2 journey electricians and 11 installers) to install PV on 15 of our schools, starting this summer. And the general contractor installing KIUC's PV project at Port Allen will use a temporary agency to hire up to 75 workers for their project. Both companies are seeking assistance from WorkWise Kaua'i staff who will be able to refer those who completed the PV installation courses last year.

It is hoped that these workers will then be able to transition to REC Solar early next year to construct KIUC's 12 MW solar farm on Hawaiian Home Lands in Anahola.

#### **KWIB ACTIVITIES/EVENTS/PROGRAMS**

##### **SESP**

##### **LEED Training**

The LEED Green Associate credential is for professionals who want to demonstrate green building expertise in non-technical fields of practice. This credential denotes basic knowledge of green design, construction, and operations. An introduction to sustainability, green building's relationship to sustainability, the core concepts in green building and the differences between the various LEED rating systems are covered, as well as LEED Green Associate Exam preparation.

Multiple sessions of this 2-day Intro to LEED and Green Building class are scheduled over the next 6 months. The April 10 – 11 course has 11 participants with SESP tuition scholarships enrolled. All SESP-funded participants will be scheduled for the certification exam in Honolulu for which travel expenses will be covered as well.

##### **RESNET**

This 6-day energy audit course will be offered in October or November.

##### **CEM**

Last participant took the certification exam in Honolulu on March 2.

##### **Solar Photovoltaic INSTALLER training**

This advanced PV II course commenced on April 7 and runs for 7 Saturdays.

### **Agriculture Skills Panel**

The Kauai event is scheduled for May 11 at the Kaua'i Beach Resort. The Kaua'i Planning Committee includes our KWIB Chair Steve Lupkes, representatives from the Kaua'i County Farm Bureau, Kaua'i Cattlemen Association, Kaua'i Coffee, DOW Agrosience, CTAHR, WDD Branch Manager and County WIA Administrator and other industry resources. The planned break out groups include: Business Development, Application of Automation/Technology, Increasing Productivity, and Food Safety.

### **Kauai Green Workforce Development Summit**

The workforce development summit held on January 25 on the Kauai Community College campus featured 20 presenters, as well as a lunch tour of the aquaponics, community garden, and photovoltaics facilities. Food catered for the event included locally sourced products such as warabi salad. The event drew 42 registered participants. The excellent and relevant presentations were followed by meaningful discussion and Q & A facilitated by Director Takamine.

## **2) INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMS**

### **WorkWise – Kaua'i – ADULT AND DISLOCATED WORKER PROGRAMS**

#### **WorkWise Kauai/WDD Activities**

The Job Seeker 559 walk-in visits equates to 28 per day. The reason for this decline is not clear but the One Stop's resource room activity will continue to be monitored to determine if this is an actual trend or just an anomaly.

The **WIA** programs continue to enroll and serve new and existing participants.

#### **Projects/Programs**

#### **Reemployment and Eligibility Assessment (REA)/ Worker Profiling (WP)**

This program is designed to reduce the number of weeks that UI claimants collect benefits.

#### **Volunteer Internship Program (VIP)**

There were 3 clients placed as volunteers at: The Salvation Army/Lihue (Office Clerk), Kauai Sound & Cinema (Video Production), and Kauai Coffee Company (Accounts Payable Clerk).

#### **On-The-Job Training Program**

Two employers from the VIP program enrolled new employees into OJT.

#### **Employment and Training Fund (ETF)**

Funding was increased by about 50% and extended through June 30, 2012 for this incumbent worker training program that assists employers with upgrading skills of their existing workforce. Staff continue to promote the program to ensure that funds are well-utilized before they expire.

## ABOUT FACE - WIA YOUTH PROGRAM

38 Participants are currently in active case management for the About Face Program.

24 Participants are now in the one year follow-up portion of the program.

WIA About Face is providing Out-of-School Work Readiness training at the Kalaheo Neighborhood Center for 7 participants, while 13 participants are enrolled in the In-School Class at Kapaa High School. It still has been unsuccessful in locating viable office space in Līhu'e.

The provider is seeking to establish a collaborative arrangement with Mutual Housing Association to hold a future In-School Class in the housing's learning center. MHA is doing wonderful things to promote community building, youth development, self-sufficiency and sustainability in their centrally located low income housing facility.

The provider continues its efforts to recruit more Older Youth participants in addition to candidates who will take the April 2012 GED test. They are also seeking Older Youth interested in pursuing a credential at KCC.

Staff are referring participants to the unique one year old Wai'ale'ale Project at KCC. It offers financial help and other support to eliminate barriers that would prevent a student from achieving academic success. It is designed to enable the non-college bound to experience college and pursue a degree.

### Education

#### Out of School Youth

4	Competency-based Mastery program
4	Studying for GED
0	Returned to High School
10	Graduated
3	Graduated and now attending college
7	In work readiness or GED Xcelerator Class
5	Not in school
12	Unable to locate – educational status unknown at this time

#### In-school Youth

2	Graduated high school
1	Finishing high school through on-line program

### Employment

18	Youth gainfully employed
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### Parenting Teens

(16)	
9	Mothers/Expectant Mothers
7	Fathers/Expectant Fathers
	(May be in multiple categories below)
2	In work readiness classes
3	Competency-based Mastery program
1	Studying for GED
3	Graduated
8	Working

Staff are continuing to provide case management by meeting with participants at various locations around the island, including the libraries.

### **3) OTHER ITEMS**

#### **Kaua'i Community School for Adults**

Programs have been significantly scaled back as well as consolidated and centralized in Lihue.

### **4) KAUAI COUNTY ACTUAL VS. GOALS FOR 2nd QTR of PY 11**

Due to a computer software crash at the WDD office, the County report is still not available.

### **5) OTHER –**